



ICT
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PERIODIC REVIEW

Bimonthly Report

Summary of Information on Jihadist Websites

The Second Half of November 2013

Highlights

This report summarizes notable events discussed on jihadist Web forums during the second half of November 2013. Following are the main points covered in the report:

- Adam Yahiyeh Gadahn al-Amriki, a senior member of Al-Qaeda, criticized the United States for kidnapping Abu Anas al-Libi, an Al-Qaeda activist responsible for the terrorist attacks against the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998. Al-Amriki called on Muslims in general, and Libyans in particular, to respond to this act of American aggression by harming American interests in the Middle East and the rest of the world.
- Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, a senior member of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Jordan, and Abu Qatada al-Filistini, a former senior leader in Al-Qaeda, sent letters to jihad activists in Syria calling on them to exercise discretion in pledging allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham.
- The Shura Council of Jaish al-Muhajireen wal-Ansar, a Salafi-jihadist group composed of foreign fighters battling Bashar al-Assad's regime in Syria, announced the appointment of a new leader named Salah al-Din al-Shishani. The appointment followed Abu Omar al-Shishani's announcement that he was leaving the organization's leadership and swearing allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, which served as further evidence of the rift between the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham and the Al-Nusra Front.
- Sirajuddin Zurayqat, a senior leader in the Abdullah Azzam Brigades, claimed responsibility for a terrorist attack against the Iranian Embassy in Lebanon and demanded that the Lebanese government free members of the organization from its prisons.
- Ansar Bait al-Maqdis, a Salafi-jihadist movement in the Sinai Peninsula, claimed responsibility for the assassination of Muhammad Mabruk, a senior Egyptian security official, and threatened to harm officials in the Egyptian Ministry of Interior and national security department if they do not release all Muslim women from prison.

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New Publications

Ideology

- During the second half of November 2013, the Al-Sahab jihadist media institution published the following:
 - An audio message titled, “The Criminal Abduction of Abu Anas al-Libi”, by Adam Yahiyeh Gadahn al-Amriki (aka “Azzam the American”), a senior member of Al-Qaeda, in which he expressed sharp criticism of the United States for kidnapping al-Libi from his apartment in Tripoli. According to the message, the kidnapping constituted yet another stage in the series of crimes carried out by the United States, which does not respect borders, sovereignty or law, and views the world as a kind of theater in which it does whatever it wants.

Al-Amriki claimed that even though the Americans were well aware that al-Libi was not an active member of Al-Qaeda, they accused him of taking part in the 1998 terrorist attacks on the U.S. Embassies in Dar Al-Salam, Tanzania and Nairobi, Kenya despite the fact that those involved in the attacks never implicated al-Libi.

Al-Amriki then plead with the Muslim Nation in general, and the Libyan people in particular, not to allow this criminal and cowardly act to pass harmlessly: “Teach the Crusaders a lesson that they will not forget, teach them that Muslim lands are a red line and not a place for their soldiers, forces or military bases, teach them that the Muslim Nation will not turn a blind eye to discrimination”.¹
 - Three video clips titled, “A Lesson in Da’wah: Do Not Underestimate the Value of a Divine Act”,² “A Lesson in Da’wah: The Battle for Prayer”³ and “Why Do We Seek Knowledge?”⁴ by Abd al-Rahman al-Husaynan (aka Abu Zayd al-Kuwayti), a Kuwaiti preacher and senior member of Al-Qaeda who was killed in a drone attack in northern Waziristan in December 2012.
- The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Al-Malahem,

¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NM4vu-LZH00>

² <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

³ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

published a video clip titled, “The Correct Path”, which is the second installation in the “Together with the Qur’an” series, by Sheikh Harith bin Ghaza al-Nazari (aka Muhammad al-Mirshadi), a senior member of AQAP.⁵

- The jihadist media institution of the Shumukh Al-Islam jihadist Web forum, Al-Masada, published an article titled, “The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham: A Look at the Reality of the Path” by an anonymous writer called Qalam Muwahhid. The 50-page article discussed the character and doctrine of the organization, and defended the policies of its leader, Abu Bakir al-Baghdadi.⁶
- The jihadist media institution of the Shumukh Al-Islam jihadist Web forum, Al-Masada, published an article by Abu Muhammad al-Tahawi, a senior member of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Jordan. The article was titled, “An appropriate response to Hilmi al-Asmar, author of the article, ‘Are they dishonest Salafis?’” In his article, al-Tahawi condemned al-Asmar’s criticism of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Jordan, which he published in the Jordanian daily, *Al-Dustur*, on November 11, 2013.⁷



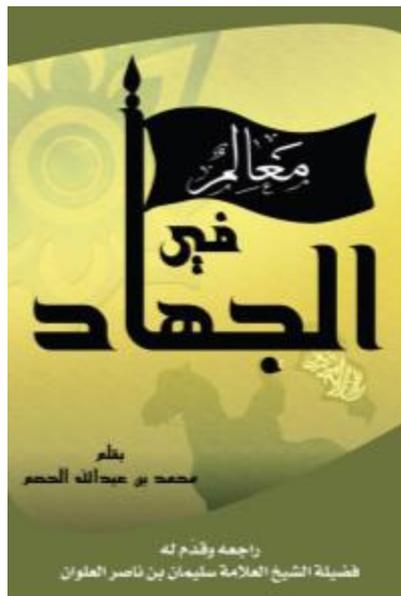
The article’s banner page

⁵ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁷ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

- The Salafi-jihadist Web portal, Minbar al-Tawhid wal-Jihad, which was established by Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, a senior member of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Jordan, published a book titled, “Milestones in Jihad” (82 pp.), by Muhammad Abdallah al-Hasam, a Kuwaiti preacher. The book’s commentary and opening remarks were written by Sheikh Sulaiman ibn Nasir ibn Abdullah al-Ulwan, a Saudi preacher being held in a Saudi prison for criticizing the Wahhabi religious establishment in the Arabian Peninsula.⁸



The binder of the book

- The Al-Ghuraba jihadist media institution posted an article on its Twitter account titled, “Is Mecca Considered a Home for Heresy?” by Sheikh Abu Osama al-Gharib, an Austrian Islamist and former leader of the Salafi-jihadist movement, Millat Ibrahim, which was banned in 2012. Today he is in prison in Turkey.⁹

⁸ <http://www.tawhed.ws/dl?i=26111302>

⁹ https://twitter.com/alghuraba_ar



The article banner

Guidebooks and Instruction Pamphlets

- The military department administrator of the Snam Al-Islam jihadist Web forum published a file containing three guidebooks about the manufacturing of Molotov cocktails. The guidebooks include precise instructions on how to prepare them, as well as relevant pictures.¹⁰

Promoting the Myth of the Martyr

- The Ibn Taymiyyah jihadist media institution paid its respects to a Gazan martyr named 'Amer Abu Ghawlah Abu 'Ubaydah, who was killed in the Al-Duwayrinah battle near Aleppo Province in Syria. Abu 'Ubaydah had joined jihad after serving one year in prison for his involvement in the murder of Italian pro-Palestinian activist, Vittorio Arrigoni, who was kidnapped and killed in the Gaza Strip in April 2011. Abu 'Ubaydah was also accused of attempting to cover up the murder, including the identity of the perpetrators and planners.¹¹

¹⁰ <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

¹¹ <https://twitter.com/bentaymia/status/403482501269573632/photo/1>;
<https://twitter.com/bentaymia/status/403482501269573632/photo/1>;
http://syriasy.blogspot.co.il/2013/11/blog-post_13.html



The Gazan martyr, 'Amer Abu Ghawlah Abu 'Ubaydah

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum expressed sadness over the death of Abd al-Qadr al-Saleh, a leader of the Al-Tawhid Brigade, a Syrian Islamist movement. Al-Saleh was killed on November 18, 2013, after being critically wounded when a Syrian military aircraft bombed the city of Aleppo where he was fighting.¹²



Abd al-Qadr al-Saleh

- Suqur al-Izz, an Islamist organization in Syria fighting against the Syrian regime, posted obituaries for several of its members on its Twitter account. The men were killed fighting the Syrian army. The organization created a hashtag for each martyr including his virtues, photos and a personal description.¹³

¹² <http://www.hanein.info/vb>; <http://www.aljazeera.net/news/pages/2b0a512d-2a53-4509-b555-2320a28c44eb> (both in Arabic).

¹³ https://twitter.com/Sqoor_Al3z



Examples of several photos of martyrs that were posted on Suqur al-Izz's Twitter account

Magazines

- The Sana Al-Sham jihadist media institution published another edition of its newspaper, *Sana Al-Sham* (12 pp.), on November 25, 2013. According to the organization's Twitter account, the newspaper is published and distributed around Aleppo.¹⁴



Photos of the first newspaper edition that was published on November 9, 2013

Reports from the Field

Afghanistan-Pakistan

*On November 16, 2013, six people were killed and 33 others injured in an explosion that took place in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan. According to the Afghan Ministry of Interior, the bomber detonated himself after police opened fire on him. The attack took place near the location of a conference that was set to discuss the security agreement between Afghanistan and the United States.*¹⁵

Meanwhile, a meeting was held in Kabul with 2,500 tribal leaders. The President of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai, attended the meeting and discussed the security agreement with the

¹⁴ https://twitter.com/alsham_1434/status/406458052087676929/photo/1

¹⁵ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-24970622> (English).

United States, which included leaving American soldiers in Afghanistan in 2014 after NATO forces leave the country.¹⁶ Karzai supported the agreement and, at the end of the meeting, the participants voted in favor of the agreement and approved it.¹⁷

On November 29, 2013, Hamidullah Tuki, a member of the Afghan Parliament known for his anti-Taliban stance and remarks, was injured in a suicide bombing at his home in Kabul.¹⁸

- During the second half of November 2013, the jihadist media institution of the Taliban in Pakistan, Umar, published the following:
 - An obituary for Nasr al-Din Haqqani, the son of Jalaluddin Haqqani, founder of the Haqqani network. According to the organization, Pakistani Intelligence was responsible for Haqqani's death, proving yet again its policy of aggression towards Islam.¹⁹
 - A video in Urdu titled, "The Struggle for India – Part 2".²⁰

The Arabian Peninsula

The President of Yemen, Abd Rabo Hadi, said in an interview with the daily, Al-Sharak Al-Awsat, on November 22, 2013, that his country was cooperating with Saudi Arabia in the field of counter-terrorism in order to stabilize Yemen. According to him, Al-Qaeda's power in Yemen has begun to decline to a certain extent as compared to 2011-2012, as a result of the security operations being carried out against Al-Qaeda bases in Abyan Province, as well as the preference of many Al-Qaeda activists in Yemen to relocate to other arenas of jihad such as Syria, Egypt, Libya and the Maghreb due to the prevailing chaos in those countries.²¹

In addition, Al-Qaeda militants in Yemen continued to fight against Yemeni government forces. On November 20, 2013, three jihad militants and three police officers were killed in clashes with Yemeni police forces in southeast Hadramawt.²² On November 26, 2013, 12 more jihad

¹⁶<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/nov/27/america-middle-east-iran-nuclear-deal> (English).

¹⁷<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/nov/21/hamid-karzai-afghans-us-forces-decade> (English).

¹⁸<http://www.khaama.com/suicide-attack-injure-afghan-lawmker-in-capital-kabul-2584> (English).

¹⁹<https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

²⁰<https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

²¹<http://www.aawsat.com/details.asp?section=4&issueno=12778&article=751092>

²²<http://gulfnews.com/news/gulf/yemen/6-dead-as-police-clash-with-al-qaida-suspects-in-yemen-1.1257578> (English).

*militants were reported to have been killed in an air strike.*²³

Iraq

*According to media reports, during the second half of November 2013, the inter-ethnic conflict in Iraq spread to the route between Mosul in the north and Kut in the east. As a result, dozens of civilians and security officials were killed and injured in a wide range of incidents throughout many cities, including Baghdad, Tuz Khurmatu, Tal 'Afar, Tikrit and As-Sa'adiyah.*²⁴ *This development followed the meeting held during the first half of November 2013 between the Iraqi Prime Minister, Nuri al-Maliki, and senior American officials in Washington, during which al-Maliki asked the latter to help his country cope with the terrorist attacks being carried out by Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI).*²⁵

*In addition, the media reported that an armed Shi'ite group, apparently supported by Iran, had fired six mortar shells from southern Iraq into northern Saudi Arabia. As a result, the group wanted to send a clear message to Sunni-dominated Saudi Arabia not to interfere in the affairs of Shi'ite Iraq.*²⁶

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum announced that a new jihadist Web site, Jihadist Mosul, had been launched specifically to serve the mujahideen in Mosul after, according to the visitor, several visitors to another Web forum active in the city had attacked the mujahideen and tainted their reputation. He noted his decision to launch the Web site as a response to opponents of the mujahideen in an effort to defend them from those who wish them harm.²⁷

²³<http://gulfnnews.com/news/gulf/yemen/12-suspected-al-qaida-militants-killed-in-air-strike-1.1259873> (English).

²⁴<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/deadly-suicide-bombings-hit-iraqi-cities-20131123165236427503.html>;
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/wave-attacks-across-iraq-kills-31-2013112820557757151.html>;
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/iraq-violence-leaves-scores-dead-20131127233012407843.html> (all in English).

²⁵<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/wave-attacks-across-iraq-kills-31-2013112820557757151.html> (English).

²⁶<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/iraqi-group-says-fired-shells-at-saudi-arabia-2013112117138729169.html> (English).

²⁷<http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.mosul.01x.net/vb/index.php>



The banner of the Jihadist Mosul Web site

Al-Sham [The Levant]

After Bashar al-Assad's forces successfully captured strategic areas around Damascus and Aleppo,²⁸ seven prominent Islamist rebel groups, including Liwa Al-Tawhid, Ahrar Al-Sham, Al-Sham Falcons Brigade, Al-Haq Brigades, Ansar Al-Sham, the Army of Islam and the Kurdish Islamic Front, announced that they were merging under one new organization - the Islamic Front. A militant from Liwa Al-Tawhid said that after completing the merger, the names of all the above-mentioned rebel groups would disappear and "there would no longer be such a thing [as Liwa Al-Tawhid]". The announcement emphasized that even though the organization was willing to cooperate with all of the "loyal fighters" in Syria, including the Free Syrian Army, it intended to establish an Islamic state the day after Bashar al-Assad is removed from power.²⁹

²⁸<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/syria-troops-seize-strategic-town-gara-20131119131748807601.html>;
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/major-syrian-rebel-groups-join-forces-20131122141129975421.html>;
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/damascus-fighting-leaves-scores-dead-2013112413156669817.html>;
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/syrian-troops-recapture-key-town-near-capital-20131128191521335983.html>;
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/scud-missiles-hit-syrian-city-activists-2013112820721445314.html> (all in English).

²⁹<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/major-syrian-rebel-groups-join-forces-20131122141129975421.html> (English).



The logo of the Islamic Front

In contrast, the political branch of the Free Syrian Army, the Syrian National Coalition, has invested a great deal of effort in uniting the rebel groups under its leadership and isolating the extremist groups in the revolution. An Islamic Front activist said that he hoped that the Syrian National Coalition would welcome the establishment of the organization and “cooperate with the will of the Syrian nation...which wants revolution – and not foreign politics and agendas”.³⁰

Despite the fact that the United Nations has urged the warring sides in the Syrian civil war to sit down at the negotiating table as soon as possible, and has even set a date for another round of peace talks in Geneva,³¹ the sides hurried to announce their refusal to participate soon afterwards. The refusal came as a result of the preconditions set by the Syrian National Coalition for talks, which included not allowing Bashar al-Assad to stay in power. In response, the Syrian regime explained that Bashar al-Assad’s position as President was not open to negotiation.³²

Meanwhile, against the backdrop of the diplomatic efforts being made to end the civil war, the violence in Syria continued to spread to Lebanon, due in part to the Shi’ite Hezbollah organization’s support of the Syrian army. One of the most prominent events covered by the media was the bombing of the Iranian Embassy in Beirut, which was carried out by the Abdullah Azzam Brigades, a Salafi-jihadist movement affiliated with Al-Qaeda, in which over 20 people were killed

³⁰<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/major-syrian-rebel-groups-join-forces-20131122141129975421.html> (English).

³¹<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/un-brokers-syria-peace-talks-january-20131125124554102325.html> (English).

³²<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/syrian-rebels-rule-out-peace-talks-ceasefire-20131126153611592917.html>; <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/assad-regime-says-no-surrender-power-20131127104615147136.html> (both in English).

and approximately 150 others were injured.³³ In addition, it was reported that Syrian army forces had waged a fierce attack on a rebel stronghold in the Qalamoun Hills in southwest Syria, causing residents of the area to flee for their lives straight into Lebanese territory.³⁴ In another incident, this time in Tripoli, at least six people were killed and approximately 30 others were injured in an exchange of gunfire between residents of the Bab Al-Tabbaneh neighborhood, which supports the Sunni rebels, and the Jebel Mohsen neighborhood, which supports the Syrian regime.³⁵

The Al-Nusra Front

- During the second half of November 2013, the media institution of the Al-Nusra Front, Al-Manarah Al-Bayda, published the following:
 - Announcements (No. 433-438) claiming responsibility for various terrorist attacks against the Syrian regime's security forces.
 - A video titled, "Progress of the Battles", documenting a suicide attack at the Kuwu checkpoint in Wadi Barada in revenge for the "slaughter" of the civilian population carried out by the Syrian regime.³⁶
 - A video titled, "The Battle to Purify the Al-Rushdiyya Quarter in Dayr Al-Zawr".³⁷
- During the second half of November 2013, the jihadist news agency Hemm, which tracks developments in Syria in general and the actions of Al-Nusra Front members in particular, published the following:
 - A video (No. 42) documenting a visit by members of the organization to the Al-Rushdiyya Quarter after its liberation and a meeting with the mujahideen in Dayr Al-Zawr.³⁸
 - A video (No. 43) documenting an operation to take over the Conoco gas plant, backed by

³³ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/08/201381881017230988.html>;
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/armed-group-says-it-carried-out-beirut-blasts-201311205559800275.html>; <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/lebanon-identifies-iran-embassy-bomber-20131123145757648164.html> (all in English).

³⁴ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/fierce-syria-clashes-spark-exodus-lebanon-2013111712321697322.html> (English).

³⁵ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/deadly-gun-battles-erupt-lebanon-tripoli-20131130132134726621.html> (English).

³⁶ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

³⁷ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

³⁸ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

the Shari'a Council, in the eastern region.³⁹

The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham: Operations in Syria

- During the second half of November 2013, the jihadist media institution of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS), Al-'Itisam, published the following:
 - A video titled, "Window to the Land of Wars (Part 27)", documenting the destruction of Sufi places of worship and gravesites in an unknown area in Syria. Sufism is the main mystical movement in Islam known for its unique ritual traditions, including grave worship and ecstatic religious ceremonies accompanied by dance, musical instruments, song and more. During the video, ISIS militants presented what they had found in the place of worship as "shirk" (literally "sharing" or "polytheism"), which is the gravest sin often discussed in the Qur'an itself.⁴⁰



The findings from the Sufi place of worship that was destroyed by ISIS militants

- A video titled, "Window to the Land of Wars (Part 28)", documenting ISIS activists in an Islamic school in the city of Jarabulus, Aleppo Province. The children and teachers spoke about the Islamic curriculum taught in the school, which included Qur'an, reading the Qur'an, Arabic and English.⁴¹

³⁹ https://twitter.com/Hemm_Agency

⁴⁰ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g3giQ9POgWg>

⁴¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bRnr4iqjB0>



The video banner

- A video titled, “Window to the Land of Wars (Part 29)”, documenting ISIS fighters distributing basic food packages to needy residents in Aleppo.⁴²



The video banner

- A video titled, “Window to the Land of Wars (Part 30)”, documenting members of the organization carrying out a publicity campaign among Syrian children about the false propaganda being spread by the West and its allies against the mujahideen. The end of the video documented a terrorist attack against an Iraqi military vehicle in Salah Al-Din Province.⁴³

⁴² <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ezxVRb7Vd9c>

⁴³ <https://twitter.com/e3tesamo>



The video banner

- A video titled, “Window to the Land of Wars (Part 31)”, documenting a group of mujahideen as they leave to fight against Syrian security forces in Aleppo.⁴⁴



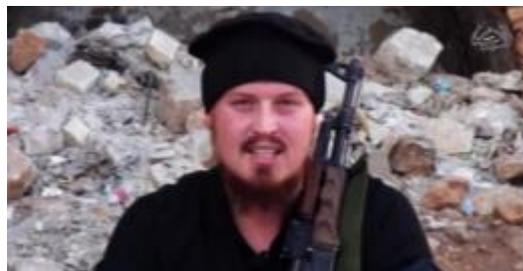
The video banner

- A video titled, “Window to the Land of Wars (Part 32)”, showing an interview with a German jihad activist who had converted to Islam “four years ago” after searching for meaning to his life (in his words). The jihad activist severely criticized politicians and their unjust laws, and noted that the results of their abuses was apparent in the despondent condition of the African continent, for instance, which was endowed with “the most natural resources in the world – but its people are the poorest in the world”. The German jihad activist revealed that he had converted to Islam in order to work for justice, and that he had immigrated to Syria in order to take part in realizing the Divine commandment of his religion – the establishment of a just and free Islamic state. He praised Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, and added that he (al-Baghdadi) was working to bring people under the wing of Islam as did the Prophet Muhammad. He addressed the “infidel and Muslim” Sufis and asked if they

⁴⁴ <https://twitter.com/e3tesamo>

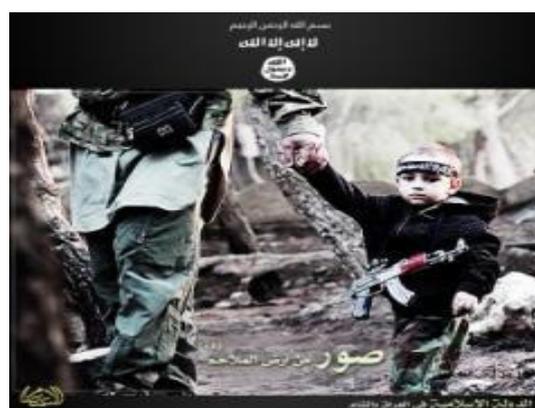
were happy with their lives in Germany, going out to lewd clubs, and plead with them to get married in order to avoid adultery: “Marry a woman...Allah even allows you to marry four [women]”.

In addition, the jihad activist asked the Sufis to defend the image of the mujahideen, who were being portrayed by the United States as terrorists, and emphasized that the Americans were the real terrorists. He revealed that he had adopted the nickname Abu Usamah out of love for Osama bin Laden, who had attacked the “chief abuser”, the United States, and he continued to urge viewers to immigrate to Syria in order to join jihad.⁴⁵



A photo of the German jihad activist

- A video (No. 4) including a collection of photos of members of the organization in the arena of jihad in Syria, in the framework of a video series titled, “Photos From the Land of Wars”.⁴⁶



⁴⁵ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁶ <http://iraqsham.com/vb> (Arabic).

The video banner

- The jihadist media institution, Al-Furqan, launched a video (No. 12) in the video series, “Letters from the Land of Battles”, examining the conduct of the shari’a court that was established by members of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham in Al-Dana’ in northwest Syria. In the video, several people who had been judged by the court expressed their satisfaction with the court’s rulings in their cases. One interviewee noted that severe transgressions such as theft, adultery and defamation of Islam, which had been pardoned by the local courts, would not be pardoned by this [shari’a] court. Another interviewee said that the court only rules “according to what Allah passed down and what the Prophet commanded – not according to statutes or a constitution”. A third interviewee insisted that there was a big difference between the life that had been lived in the shadow of Bashar al-Assad’s regime and present-day life under the mujahideen’s leadership. He said that “Here we rule according to Allah’s shari’a, not the shari’a of the infidel Bashar al-Assad”. Here the public fears Allah, while before they did not.⁴⁷



The video banner

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted a photo of weapons that had been plundered from the Syrian army by ISIS militants in Aleppo. The visitor claimed that the weapons had been sent to the Syrian army by the “Crusader” NATO organization and he castigated Muslims, saying that “the Alawites, Shi’ites, militias and Crusaders had united in

⁴⁷ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

order to kill the mujahideen in Al-Sham, while you (Muslims) are still divided as to whether or not to help them [the mujahideen]”. The visitor added that if Muslims are unable to help the mujahideen in person or with property, they should at least support them by remaining silent and holding their tongues (from slander).⁴⁸



The weapons that were allegedly transferred by NATO to the Syrian army claim

- The Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS) distributed an official announcement in which it claimed to have completed an operation to free members of ISIS who had been abducted by the Islamist Grandsons of the Prophet Brigades, an affiliate of the Free Syrian Army, in Bab Al-Hawa in northeast Syria. The announcement stated that ISIS had completed the work of purging the area of the “wickedness” of the Grandsons of the Prophet Brigades.⁴⁹



The announcement distributed by the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham

⁴⁸ <http://iragsham.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁴⁹ <http://iragsham.com/vb> (Arabic).

- The jihadist media institution, Al-Sham Media, which helps publish material for the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, published on its Twitter account a photo of a former soldier in the armed forces of the Netherlands who had joined the ranks of the mujahideen in Syria.⁵⁰



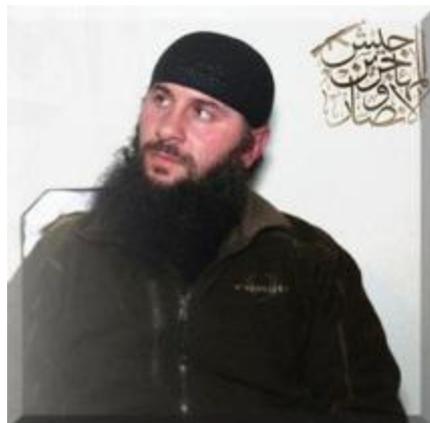
A photo of the Dutch soldier who became a jihadist

- Jaish al-Muhajireen wal-Ansar, an organization composed of foreign Salafi-jihadist fighters in Syria, published an announcement claiming that Sheikh Abu Omar al-Shishani, the leader of the organization, had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham along with half of the organization's members. As a result, the organization's Shura Council met and unanimously decided to appoint Salah al-Din al-Shishani as the organization's new leader.⁵¹

The appointment of a new emir to the organization was further proof of the growing split and rift between ISIS and the Al-Nusra Front. While ISIS was focusing its efforts on getting Islamist organizations in Syria to express their allegiance to ISIS and operate under its authority, the Al-Nusra Front swore allegiance to Ayman al-Zawahiri and serves as Al-Qaeda's affiliate in Syria. This rift is indicative of al-Zawahiri's weakness in imposing his authority on ISIS.

⁵⁰ https://twitter.com/ISIS_Media_Hub/status/402071459452813312/photo/1

⁵¹ https://twitter.com/M_Al_Sagr/status/406494490749583361/photo/1



**From left to right: Salah al-Din al-Shishani;
the announcement by Jaish al-Muhajireen wal-Ansar regarding the new appointment**

- The Haqq Islamic news agency, which reviews Islamist Web content, posted to the Hanein jihadist Web forum a news item from the agency, in which it claimed that ISIS police had burned cigarettes worth 1.8 million Syrian lira. The news agency praised ISIS and said that while the organization was burning cigarettes, other organizations were allowing them in their territories and even collecting taxes on them.⁵²



Packets of cigarettes that were confiscated and burned by ISIS activists

Suqur Al-Izz

- During the second half of November 2013, Suqur Al-Izz, an Islamist organization in Syria fighting the Syrian regime, published the following:
 - An announcement claiming responsibility for an attack by members of the organization

⁵² <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

on a Syrian security forces stronghold in the village of Khirbet Al-Baz, near Latakia, on November 17, 2013. According to the organization, the attack was in response to the massacre of residents of Talkalakh, near Homs, which was perpetrated by Syrian security forces. Several members of the Syrian security forces were killed in the revenge attack, as well as a senior commander in Suqur Al-Izz named Abu Mus'ab al-Ansari.⁵³

- A video in which a member of the organization called on Muslims to join jihad.⁵⁴



The video banner

Lebanon

Sirajuddin Zurayqat, a senior member of the Abdullah Azzam Brigades, claimed responsibility on his Twitter account for two suicide attacks that took place on November 19, 2013 at the Iranian Embassy in Beirut. He emphasized that all Hezbollah militants must withdraw from Syria and demanded that the Lebanese government release members of his organization who are sitting in jail in Lebanon.⁵⁵

⁵³ https://twitter.com/Sqoor_Al3z (Hebrew).

⁵⁴ https://twitter.com/Sqoor_Al3z (Hebrew).

⁵⁵ <https://twitter.com/SirajeddineZ> (inactive account).

#غزوة_السفارة_الإيرانية_في_بيروت

لبنان المسلم



The banner posted to the Twitter account with the hashtag
“The incursion into the Iranian Embassy in Beirut; Muslim Lebanon”

Jordan

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum directed his colleagues’ attention to a news item that was published by Al-Jazeera, in which it was reported that the leader of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Jordan, Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi, had sent a letter to jihad fighters in Syria asking them to think twice before pledging allegiance to the leader of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.⁵⁶

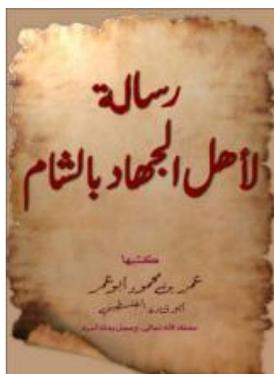
Al-Maqdisi’s letter joined the statements made by other prominent figures in the Jordanian jihadist discourse regarding their position on the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, including Abu Qatada, Abu Humam al-Athari and Abu Humam al-Azdi. Abu Qatada, for instance, wrote an open letter to his supporters in Jordan and Syria, in which he advised them to act as follows:

- A. Avoid a rift among jihad commanders, hinting at the leaders of the Al-Nusra Front and the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, who have been caught in conflict since April 2013.
- B. Avoid using nicknames such as “Caliphate”, “Emir of the Faithful” and “Islamic State” since there is no territorial entity, organization or leader that deserves it. He emphasized that anyone who assumes the nicknames “Caliphate” or “Emir of the Faithful” is behaving according to the Shi’ite doctrine that presents its leaders as having been appointed by a higher power rather than by human beings.
- C. Avoid a situation in which each organization fights for itself since the organization is only a means for attaining the goal – and not the goal itself.
- D. Avoid helping fighters in the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, calling the fatwas that they wrote “naïve and childish” as if written by “high school students or people

⁵⁶ <http://www.aljazeera.net/news/pages/84a822d8-0f92-4ed0-8225-972bccf35cdc>

pretending to have religious knowledge”.

- E. Establish a council of clerics to serve as an authority in resolving political conflicts.⁵⁷



The banner of “Letter to Jihad Fighters in Al-Sham”, written by Abu Qatada

In his open letter, which he sent via Abu Sayyaf, a prominent figure in the Salafi-jihadist movement in Jordan, Abu Muhammad al-Maqdisi advised the mujahideen in Syria to act as follows:

- A. Act for the sake of greater unity among the mujahideen in Syria by merging the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham and the Al-Nusra Front into one movement, with one leader to be chosen by the Shura Council. In an effort to foster aversion for Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi as emir, al-Maqdisi added that the jihadist leadership in Syria must be held by Syrians in order to create a greater appeal for the organization among Syrian citizens.
- B. Jihadist scholars must support a “banner of unity” in Syria and not show affection for a certain group. This constituted a criticism of “new” / “young” jihadist ideologues who display too much enthusiasm for the operations of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham.⁵⁸

According to media reports, al-Maqdisi’s letter was written in response to a letter written by

⁵⁷ <http://www.muslim.org/vb> (Arabic); <http://almadenahnews.com/article/260662-%D8%A7%D8%A8%D9%88-%D9%82%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%84%D9%81%D9%8A%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%88%D9%88%D8%A7-%D9%82%D8%A8%D9%84-%D8%A7%D8%AE%D8%AA%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8%D8%BA%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%A7>

⁵⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://alhayat.com/Details/575853>

Abu Humam Bakr bin Abd al-Aziz al-Athari.⁵⁹ The letter was published under the title, “Stretch out your hands to pledge allegiance to al-Baghdadi”. According to the media, al-Athari revealed that he was one of the leaders of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham and he plead with the mujahideen in Syria to pledge allegiance to the leader of the organization, al-Baghdadi.⁶⁰



The banner of al-Athari’s letter, “Stretch out your hands to pledge allegiance to al-Baghdadi”.

Another person who called [on the mujahideen] to swear allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, was Abu Muhammad al-Azdi, who had published a 50-page booklet during the second half of October titled, “The Condition of the Opponents of an Islamic State”. The booklet stated, “We proclaim to the Muslim Nation, led by chosen leaders and jihad commanders everywhere, that [the mujahideen] have unified around the sheikh and jihad fighter, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi al-Husseini al-Qurashi...Emir of the Faithful, as well as [around] the sheikh’s appointee, the jihad fighter Abu Ibd Allah al-Husseini al-Qurashi, as his first minister and deputy, and we call on all of the mujahideen in Al-Sham to swear allegiance to al-Baghdadi as Emir of the Muslims”.⁶¹

⁵⁹https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Am2QO_dxnrA

⁶⁰<https://archive.org/stream/baghdadi-001/al-Baghdadi#page/n5/mode/2up>

⁶¹<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ozx8fflcxc4uki2/%D8%A3%D8%AD%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B9%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%B6%D9%8A%D9%86.pdf;http://thabat111.wordpress.com/?s=%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B2%D8%AF%D9%8A>



The banner of the booklet “The Condition of the Opponents of an Islamic State” by Abu Muhammad al-Azdi

The involvement of leading figures within the Jordanian jihadist discourse in the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS) provides further evidence of the organization’s power, which increased significantly after it joined the fighting in the arena of jihad in Syria. Even though most Jordanian fighters in Syria belong to ISIS, it seems that the central leadership of the Salafi-jihadist movement in Jordan, especially al-Maqdisi and Abu-Qatada, does not view the strengthening of ISIS as a positive development. The reason for this stems from al-Baghdadi’s insubordination to the order given by Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of Al-Qaeda Central (AQC), to retreat with his organization back to the borders of Iraq.⁶²

General

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum posted that the last few times he entered the site, he felt a sense of bitterness at the fact that visitors were using the topics of discussion to promote certain jihadist organizations over others while fanning the flames of a civil war among the mujahideen in Syria.

⁶² <http://www.hanein.info/vb/showthread.php?t=338606;>
<http://www.aljazeera.net/news/pages/84a822d8-0f92-4ed0-8225-972bccf35cdc;>
<http://maktoob.news.yahoo.com/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%82%D8%AF%D8%B3%D9%8A-%D9%8A%D8%AA%D8%AD%D9%81%D8%B8-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89-%D9%85%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8%D8%BA%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AF%D9%8A-%D8%A3%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%B1%D8%A7-%D9%84%D9%84%D9%85%D8%A4%D9%85%D9%86%D9%8A%D9%86-200721877.html>

The visitor emphasized that while certain visitors have claimed to be the official spokespeople for the jihadist organization that they are defending and insisted that one particular organization's war effort is more significant than the others, Alawite and Shi'ite forces have been gathering and planning to attack Aleppo. The preoccupation with the rivalry between the various jihadist organizations on the Hanein Web forum is so great, according to the visitor, that it is causing users to erroneously conclude that the struggle between the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham and other jihadist organizations is merely an aspect of the Syrian civil war, and that no real threat exists on the part of the Alawite army and the Lebanese, Iraqi and Persian [Iranian] Shi'ite militias.

The visitor then criticized the exaggerate preoccupation with the rivalry among the mujahideen and asked: "Has the current battle in Syria turned into one against the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham alone...and why is there such vilification and blind attacks against the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham...and since when did jihad supporters in Syria split...[into supporters of] the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham,...the Al-Nusra Front...and the Al-Sham Brigades?" He added that it would not be at all surprising if the actual differences in opinion among the jihadist organizations in Syria were minor, and if they were bring blown out of proportion by the media. The visitor then berated forum users, saying: "Why are you exaggerating [the dispute] in your discussions [on the forum]?"

The visitor sent messages to forum users and addressed supporters of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, saying that the mujahideen in every jihadist group are taking pains to establish an Islamic state and fight for the sake of Allah. To opponents of the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham, he asked: "The organization is battling and fighting...how are you not embarrassed to defame people who dedicated themselves to helping and exalting the religion of Allah?"

Finally, the visitor said, "Imagine that we wake up in the morning to see that Bashar al-Assad has complete control, that jihad in Syria has ended, and that the entire country has become a province affiliated with the kingdom of Iran...what situation will you be in then?...I do not care if the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham joined the Al-Nusra Front or vice versa, or if they both merged with the Al-Sham Brigades! What interests me is that people continue to fight for the

sake of [demonstrating that] ‘there is no other God than Allah’ in Syria”.⁶³

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum stated that the Syrian nation knows and understands Islam better than the Iraqi nation, and even included the following “proof”:
 - All Syrian mujahideen are fighting today against Bashar al-Assad’s regime, without exception, and are not making excuses to exempt themselves from killing him or his allies, while (most) members of the Sunni Nation in Iraq oppose the killing of Shi’ites, claiming that they are Muslims after all. In addition, the visitor added that the Syrian nation is not using the excuse that Bashar al-Assad and his allies should not be killed because they are Syrians.
 - The Syrian nation is exhibiting greater anger and popular resistance towards Sunni politicians in the Syrian opposition even though their actions are not as terrible as those of the Sunni politicians in Iraq.
 - The Syrian nation is not cooperating with the dictates of the West, which is interested in exploiting the civil war to advance its own narrow interests, as opposed to the Iraqi nation, which is giving the Americans free reign.
 - There is Syrian popular resistance against the Shi’a and their ideas, unlike in Iraq.

One visitor to the forum agreed with the above and praised the Sunni Nation in Syria for its pure and healthy faith that avoids distortions.⁶⁴

The Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip

*On November 20, 2013 a car bomb exploded next to a bus carrying soldiers in Al-Arish in the Sinai Peninsula. At least 11 soldiers were killed and 35 others injured in the attack. This was one of the most significant attacks carried out in the Sinai Peninsula in recent years, especially against Egyptian targets. The Egyptian army spokesman sharply emphasized that the army would continue to increase its efforts to eradicate terrorism in the Sinai Peninsula. The Egyptian Prime Minister, Hazem al-Beblawi, criticized the terrorist attack and said that all options were open in the war on terrorism in the Sinai Peninsula.*⁶⁵

⁶³ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁴ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁵ <http://news.yahoo.com/sinai-car-bomb-kills-least-10-egypt-soldiers-074200219.html> (English).

The Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem

- The Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem, a Salafi-jihadist group, published an official announcement (No. 41) in which it said that the Al-Aqsa Mosque was still being held captive by “Jewish animals” after dozens of years. He added that attacks on Muslims have recently intensified because of “a handful of criminals and agents” who sold their souls to the Jews, while other Muslims were using “fake politics” to continue evading jihad against the Jews and had their hands tied on the issue of Muslims in Jerusalem. The Council clarified that jihad in the West Bank was resolute and under the new banner of the Salafi-jihadist movement as it draws closer to Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

In addition, the announcement mentioned the names of three of its members who had been killed “in an ambush set for them by the Jews”: Mohamed Fouad Nairukh, Mahmud al-Najjar and Mussa Fanasheh. On November 26, 2013, Israeli security forces led chase to them in the southern area of Mount Hebron. Explosive material and weapons were found in the vehicle that the militants were driving, with which they had planned to carry out a large-scale terrorist attack.⁶⁶

- The Ibn Taymiyyah jihadist media organization posted on its Twitter account a photo titled, “The Jihadi Harvest of the mujahideen in the Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem towards Jewish aggression in 2012”, documenting various operations carried out by the organization against Israeli targets.⁶⁷



The photo posted on the Twitter account of the Ibn Taymiyyah jihadist media organization

Ansar Bait al-Maqdis

⁶⁶ <http://alplatformmedia.com/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.dawaalhaq.com/?p=8423>

⁶⁷ <https://twitter.com/bentaymia>; #غزة #الضفة #فلسطين

- During the second half of November 2013, Ansar Bait al-Maqdis, a Salafi-jihadist movement in the Sinai Peninsula, published the following:
 - An announcement from November 19, 2013, claiming responsibility for the assassination of Muhammad Mabruk, a senior Egyptian security official. According to the announcement, the assassination was carried out in response to the arrests of Muslim women, initiated by Mabruk, who were taken to questioning by police and state security agencies. The group noted that the assassination was carried out in the framework of a series of attacks under the banner, “Free the Prisoners from the Hands of the Tyrants”. The announcement also stated that one of the group’s military units, known as Al-Mu’atasim B’Allah, had claimed responsibility for freeing the prisoners and punishing officials from the Egyptian Ministry of Interior for their part in the imprisonment of Muslim women. The group turned to Muslims in Egypt [and beseeched them] to defend the honor of their women, and expressed its willingness to receive any information via the Internet that could help punish any Egyptian security official that harms a Muslim woman. At the end of the announcement, the group called on officials in the Egyptian Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Defence to release all women from [Egyptian] prisons or face more attacks.⁶⁸
 - A eulogy for Ahmad Nasir al-Qarm (aka Abu Ali), a senior commander in the organization. According to the eulogy, Abu Ali had taken part in several terrorist attacks against Israel.
 - A video titled, “The Battle of Revenge for Egypt’s Muslims (Part 2): An Attack on the Security Administration of the Southern Sinai [Peninsula]”.⁶⁹

⁶⁸ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁶⁹ <https://shamikh1.info/vb> (Arabic).



The video banner

- A video documenting the training and operational activities of the organization's militants. During the training, which included physical fitness exercises, shooting practice and various simulations, such as the taking over of vehicles, the commander was seen urging the militants to crawl faster on the sandy earth while shooting live ammunition. The video also documented a shooting attack directed at a bus that it claimed was carrying Egyptian soldiers. It was emphasized that the operation was delayed by a bystander who was riding down the street on a donkey-drawn carriage "in order to protect the blood of Muslims". After the carriage had passed, several military vehicles drove by including two buses full of soldiers. The first bus drove over an explosive device and exploded. The video also included several short clips in which other military vehicles drive over mines or explosive devices and explode. The video also entwines vocal messages by two prominent figures in the history of Iraqi terrorism: Abu Mus'ab al-Zarqawi, leader of Al-Qaeda in Iraq, and Abu Muhammad al-'Adnani, spokesman for the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham.⁷⁰



The video banner

⁷⁰ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQgi2dubSyw>

General

A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum published a “journalist’s” article according to which Hamas had claimed responsibility for the terrorist attack on the Iranian Embassy in Beirut on November 19, 2013. According to the report, Hamas has extended condolences to the families of the victims and wished a speedy recovery to those who were wounded, while it emphasized its fundamental opposition to the use of violence against innocent people. In response, the administrator of the Hanein Web forum asked the visitor to publish the source of the report in order to verify its credibility. The visitor did not accede to the administrator’s request, who then closed the topic for discussion.⁷¹

The Maghreb [North Africa]

During the second half of November 2013, delegates from areas of the Maghreb, Africa and Europe assembled in Tangier in northern Morocco in order to discuss joint operative approaches to protect the Sahel from armed groups. One speaker said that all of the participants in the conference were, in effect, facing the same changes and developments in the region – from the security and humanitarian field to the socioeconomic field. Two countries that expressed clear signs of distress during the conference were Mali and Libya.⁷²

Senior delegates from Mali explained that their country was still in need of international assistance and plead with the international community “not to leave its post”, claiming that such a move would not only endanger the security of the region, but the security of the entire world as well. The delegates warned that political entities, and even an entire sector, are no longer enough to cope on their own with terrorism. Senior delegates from Libya added that the security challenge that northern Africa and the Sahel are facing has the potential to cause severe damage, further

⁷¹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic);
<http://www.skynewsarabia.com/web/article/483440/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D8%AA%D8%A8%D9%86%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%87%D8%AC%D9%88%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B2%D8%AF%D9%88%D8%AC-%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%AA>

⁷² http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/11/20/feature-01 (English).

highlighting the need for international-regional cooperation to eradicate terrorism.⁷³

Meanwhile, the media reported that the countries of the Maghreb and the Sahel were not only talking about strengthening their security, but were taking real initiatives to do so on both the foreign and domestic front. At least three African countries have promoted contact with international bodies to join forces against terrorism, including Morocco (with the United States), Libya (with the United States and England) and Mauritania (with France).⁷⁴ Libya, Tunisia and Algeria were also reported to have made efforts to eradicate the threat of terrorism on their land,⁷⁵ and Libya has even seen the first signs of hope – after several militias in the country were successfully disbanded thanks to public pressure.⁷⁶

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb

- The jihadist media institution of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), Al-Andalus, published a eulogy for Hakim Allah Mehsud, leader of the Taliban in Pakistan, who was killed by an American drone in northern Waziristan in the beginning of November 2013.⁷⁷

Egypt

- The Haqq Islamic news agency posted a news item to the Hanein jihadist Web forum in which it claimed that a Coptic Christian had boasted on his Twitter account that he killed two Muslim Brotherhood supporters and wounded four others.

In response, the supervisor of the Hanein Web forum noted that one may not post news items from sources such as Twitter and Facebook as they are not credible. The news agency explained to the supervisor that while it also usually refrains from publishing news items from Twitter and

⁷³ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/11/20/feature-01;
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/reportage/2013/11/29/reportage-01 (both in English).

⁷⁴ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/11/21/feature-02;
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/11/26/feature-01;
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/11/27/feature-02 (all in English).

⁷⁵ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/11/19/feature-02;
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/reportage/2013/11/22/reportage-01;
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/11/26/feature-02;
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/11/27/feature-01 (all in English).

⁷⁶ http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/11/22/feature-01;
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/11/18/feature-01;
http://magharebia.com/en_GB/articles/awi/features/2013/11/19/feature-01 (all in English).

⁷⁷ <https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

Facebook, the item had been taken directly from the “Christian’s” private Facebook account (<https://www.facebook.com/hany.zaghlol>), which was recently locked. One forum supporter noted that “this is what happens in the absence of shari’a – degradation and humiliation”, and added that the Muslim Brotherhood had indeed lost a great deal.⁷⁸



The Facebook chat in which a Coptic Christian boasted about killing Muslim Brotherhood supporters in Egypt

- During the Muslim Brotherhood’s rule in Egypt, the jihadist discourse in Web forums was rife with clear expressions of loathing towards the movement for its failure to implement the Islamist vision as required by supporters of the Salafi-jihadist ideology. Nevertheless, after the Muslim Brotherhood was removed from power, and after the army took over control of Egypt, those who had been considered enemies in the past then became fellow sufferers. If the jihadist discourse towards the Muslim Brotherhood during the period before the revolution had been that of absolute evil, after the revolution a certain kinship developed between the two sides on the basis of their shared Islamist interest. The signature of a visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum displayed an open book with the symbol of the Muslim Brotherhood on the first page and the Salafi-jihadist symbol on the second page, indicating the turning of a new page in the relationship between the two movements.⁷⁹

⁷⁸ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁷⁹ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic).



The signature of a visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum: A new page in the relationship between the Muslim Brotherhood and the Salafi-jihadist movement?

Angola

- A visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum referred visitors to a news item that was published by the media in Africa, in which it was claimed that the Angolan Minister of Culture made a statement criticizing Islam in Angola, saying “that this is the time to put an end to the Islamic influence on the country”. Despite the fact that the Minister denied making the statement, the media has attributed other similar statements to him, including “Islamic law has not been approved by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, and therefore mosques in the country will be closed until further notice”.

In response, a visitor to the Hanein jihadist Web forum said, “If Christians and Jews would be treated this way in any country, they would join forces in order to fight the phenomenon”. He added, Do [the Christians and Jews] have more honor/power of resistance than us [Muslims]?” and added, “No, but the Muslims have become like a filthy foam on the water and Muslim leaders have become like sheep, imbibing immorality and corruption...and they do not care about Islam...but rather [they care] only about satisfying the wishes of their masters in the heretical West.”⁸⁰

Somalia

*On November 19, 2013, 16 people were killed in an attack by Al-Shabab Al-Mujahideen on a police station in northern Somalia. It was reported that armed members of the organization opened fire on police officers and citizens who were in the police station.*⁸¹

⁸⁰ <http://www.hanein.info/vb> (Arabic); <http://www.elbilad.net/flash/detail?id=4903>

⁸¹ <http://news.yahoo.com/gunmen-car-bomb-storm-somali-police-station-101109279.html> (English).

Iran

Ansar Iran, a Salafi-jihadist movement in Iran, published an official announcement that it was replacing its name and banner, and that as a result of this decision all of the blogs that it operates would be updated.⁸²



Ansar Iran's new banner

The West

- At the end of November 2013, Belgian security forces arrested a Moroccan man named Khaled Oussayh, a prominent member of Al-Jamaa Al-Maghrabiyya Al-Muqatala, a Moroccan Salafi-jihadist group that maintains relations with Al-Qaeda. He was arrested for his suspected involvement in a terrorist attack that occurred in Casablanca on May 16, 2006.⁸³
- The jihadist media institution, the Global Islamic Media Front, published a new article titled, "Exposing the Lies Published on the Wikipedia Web site" by Abu Osama al-Gharib, an Austrian Islamist and former leader of the Salafi-jihadist movement, Millat Ibrahim, which was banned in 2012. Today he is in prison in Turkey.⁸⁴

Women and Jihad

- On its Twitter account, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula⁸⁵ posted a religious document regarding the conduct of women in the ranks of jihad, particularly in terms of the campaigns directed at promoting jihad. The document dealt with various religious aspects based on

⁸²<http://ansariran-en.blogspot.co.il/2013/11/importanat-announcement-new-look-new.html> (English).

⁸³http://www.elkhabar.com/ar/autres/dernieres_nouvelles/370389.html

⁸⁴<https://alfidaa.info/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁵<http://twitter.com/Africamuslima>

sources within the Qur'an and shari'a in order to establish general guidelines for how women should conduct themselves and how they should be treated.⁸⁶

Miscellaneous

- A prominent visitor to the Snam Al-Islam Web forum published an article about the United States' stance on the revolutions in the Arab world. In the article, the writer claimed that the Americans reacted with hostility towards the Arab nations and the revolutions in the Arab world, and through its [hostile] actions it was actually digging its own grave. The American attitude was causing Muslims around the world to understand that [the way of] the weapon is the only way, a conclusion that Al-Qaeda and other jihadist groups had reached long ago. Even the voices from within the Arab nations calling for cooperation with the West have been dwindling in light of the reality in Egypt, Syria and all Arab countries. The United States sees these revolutions as a threat and fears that its position of power will be undermined.⁸⁷

Facebook and Twitter

- On November 19, 2013 the Twitter account seemingly associated with the Al-Nusra Front in Syria posted a link to a seven-part video titled, "The Journey of the Mujahid".⁸⁸ The video is a comic book directed at "Muslim Arab youth living in the Diaspora" that pleads with them to leave their homes and join jihad.



The video introduction

⁸⁶ <https://ia801901.us.archive.org/5/items/africamuslima.20.11.2013/200.01.pdf>

⁸⁷ <http://snamalislam.com/vb> (Arabic).

⁸⁸ <https://twitter.com/MustafaRusoom>; <https://www.facebook.com/mustafa.rusoom>;

For the videos, see: <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLBeEDloTFL7krJV6ypS6Pw>

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The Jihadi Websites Monitoring Group (JWMG) is a specialized research and analysis team at the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT). Composed of researchers fluent in Arabic, the JWMG monitors websites that support and serve the Global Jihad organizations. The unique characteristic of JWMG publications is the team's integration of diverse materials from a wide variety of Arabic sources. JWMG connects each source to larger trends, providing a complete understanding of events on both a local and a global scale.

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